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## **FORMER CALIFORNIA STATE CORRECTIONAL OFFICER SENTENCED TO 97-MONTH FEDERAL PRISON TERM FOR RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that EARL DEAN McKINNEY, 41, of Fresno, Calif., was sentenced today by Senior United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger for receipt of images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. McKINNEY is retired from the United States Navy and worked as a Correctional Officer at the Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga, Calif. His sentence includes a 97-month prison term, followed by a 15-year term of supervised release. During his supervised release, he will be required to register as a sex offender, and his access to the Internet and minors will be restricted.

The case was the result of an investigation by the Kings County Sheriff's Department with assistance from the Fresno Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, specifically the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in Fresno, and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Unit.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who prosecuted the case, McKINNEY came to the attention of law enforcement when Yahoo! sent a CyberTipline report to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children related to images of suspected child pornography in an account controlled by McKINNEY. The NCMEC forwarded information to the Kings County Sheriff's Department. A search warrant was executed at McKINNEY's residence, and a computer and numerous storage devices were later determined to contain child pornography. McKINNEY agreed to forfeit all of these items to the United States. He admitted that he used the peer-to-peer program Limewire to search for and receive images of child pornography.

McKINNEY has been in custody since pleading guilty on July 24, 2008.

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